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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,643	03/10/2004	Ian Peter Marshall	TMG-0004	4207

7590

04/04/2006

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EXAMINER

LACYK, JOHN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3735

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/797,643	Applicant(s) MARSHALL, IAN PETER	
	Examiner John P. Lacyk	Art Unit 3735	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekulich (3,996,930) in view of Jacobs (5,853,362) and Jannuzzi (2004/0186344).

Sekulich teaches a device that although states is V-shaped, is considered to be generally U-shaped and if not anticipated then considered obvious to use a V or U shape since they are generally the same shape. The device has a handle portion (11) and a penetrative portion (13) connected together, the tip (27, 28) is curved at its distal end. The handle portion has an inner face with ribs (21, 23) that act as a further stimulate. The shaft portion also has a contoured surface to add additional stimulation. With regard to claim 6, although Sekulich does not specifically disclose the angle between the portions, as see in Figure 2, the angle appears to be in that range. Further to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation has been shown to be an obvious expedient to one skilled in the art where the general conditions are disclosed in the prior art, therefore to determine the optimum angle to provide the correct stimulation would have been obvious to one skilled in the art. While the penetrative portion shows a curved distal end Sekulich does not specifically disclose the end forming a nosed hook or a contoured means to aid in gripping to manipulate the device.

Jacobs discloses a stimulation device and teaches that it is well known to provide a hook shaped at the distal end of the device to stimulate the G-spot (see abstract). Jacobs also teaches that it is well known to provide two stimulation elements connected together by a connecting member (See Figure 19, column 11, lines 55-65). The medial bulge 69 is considered the connecting member that connects the two stimulation elements 52p and 50p and since the device is flexible it is considered to be pivotably mounted to the connecting member. Therefore a modification of Sekulich to provide the distal end with a hook shaped end and use two stimulating elements to stimulate more than one person at a time would have been obvious in view of the teachings of Jacobs which shows that the hook shape is well known and double-ended devices are well known for use by more than one person at a time.

Jannuzzi (2004/0186344) discloses a stimulation device and teaches that it is well known to provide a stimulation device with a hand grip (15) to aid the user in grasping and/or controlling the movement of the device. Therefore a modification of Sekulich such that the device includes a contoured hand grip would have been obvious since this would allow the user to better grip the device while either inserting or manipulating the device.

3. Claims 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekulich, Jacobs and Jannuzzi in view of Kontos.

Sekulich discloses the claimed device, as discussed above, except for the use of a means to vibrate, a means to heat and the specific material. Kontos discloses a

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stimulation device and discloses that it is well known to make the device from an elastomeric material (column 3, lines 5-10), and that it is well known to provide both vibration and heat to such devices to further stimulate the user (18 and 19) using well known vibrational means such as a "bullet" which may include a range of selectable modes.

4. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekulich in view of Ritchie et al.

Ritchie et al discloses a stimulation device and teaches that it is known to provide a device which allows for both vaginal and anal insertion together. Therefore a modification of Sekulich such that it includes an anal stimulation means would have been obvious in view of Ritchie et al which shows that this is well known in the art.

5. Applicant's arguments filed 01/09/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the Sekulich and Jacobs devices are not intended to be handheld. While this is directed to the intended use of the device, the devices above are clearly capable of being handheld. Applicant argues that Sekulich does not disclose a grippable portion, this has been discussed above with respect to the Januzzi device. Applicant also argues that there is no suggestion to combine the teachings of the prior art devices as discussed previously the combinations appear to be proper in that all the prior art is directed to a "generally U-shaped" device inserted into a user to provide stimulation and the test for obviousness is not whether the features of one reference

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can be bodily incorporated into the structure of another, proper inquiry should not be limited to the specific structure shown by the references, but should be into the concepts fairly contained within and whether those concepts would suggest the modifications called for by the claims. Applicant argues that Jacobs and Sekulich devices have not handle portion, as shown in the rejection above, the references clearly have external portions that can be used as and are considered to be a handle portion since as shown above the device is capable of being gripped or handled and would clearly be used as such during insertion.

Applicant further argues that Januzzi discloses a handle that is contoured all the way around and that there is no structure on Januzzi suitable for performing as an outer stimulation zone. While as discussed above the prior art need not be limited to the specific structure shown or need to be bodily incorporated into the structure of another, should the Sekulich and Januzzi devices use their combined teachings together whether the contours of Januzzi are merely added to the outer face of the handle portion of Sekulich the ribs (21, 23) would act as an outer stimulator zone or should the entire handle portion be modified to include the contours the part of the contours directed on the inner face would also act as an outer stimulator zone in that the contours themselves would further provide stimulation.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

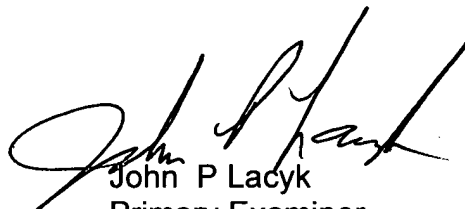
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Lacyk whose telephone number is 571-272-4728. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ali Imam can be reached on 571-272-4737. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



John P Lacyk
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3735

J.P. Lacyk